



COVID-19 and the NCLEX

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Overview

- Welcome and introductions
- COVID-19 updates
 - Modifications to the exams
 - Modifications to the test center network
 - Modifications to testing environment
- Are the new exams more difficult?
- Questions and follow-up

Welcome and introductions



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Modifications to the exams

RATIONALE FOR CHANGES: Support the essential flow of new nurses into the healthcare system while minimizing risks to candidates and test center staff.

Feature	Modified Exam	Original Exam (RN)	Original Exam (PN)
Seat time	4 hours	6 hours	5 hours
Experimental/pretest questions	None	15 questions	25 questions
Next Generation NCLEX Special Research Section	None	30 minutes (optional)	N/A
Maximum length exam	130 questions	265 questions	205 questions
Minimum length exam	60 questions	75 questions	85 questions
Format	CAT	CAT	CAT

NOTE: The modified exam will remain in place through **at least July 4**. NCSBN will determine whether to extend the modified exam based on need.

Modifications to test center network

- Establishment of Essential Services Pearson VUE PPC testing channel
- Open to healthcare and public health workers, including first responders
- Launched on March 25 with 83 testing centers
- 134 testing centers as of April 6
- Opening/closing of individual testing centers is dependent on guidance provided by state government
- Restrictions on scheduling to limit number of candidates per day
- Staffed on a voluntary basis by trained Pearson VUE staff

Modifications to testing environment

- **Enhanced cleaning:** Every testing workstation is cleaned between candidates. All high touch points in communal areas such as door handles, door plates, and lockers are cleaned at least hourly. Air ventilation systems are turned off.
- **Provision of essential items:** Hand sanitizer and paper towels are readily available for all candidates to use.
- **Declaration of wellness:** Candidates are asked to confirm during the check-in process that within the past 14 days, they have not exhibited COVID-19 symptoms and have not been in close proximity with anyone who was either diagnosed with COVID-19 or who was exhibiting symptoms.
- **Social distancing policy:** Tape and signage denotes available seats in the waiting area that can be used and where candidates should stand when interacting with staff. Candidates will be asked to hold their identification at arm's length, so that the Test Administrator can review it without touching it. Candidates seated 6 feet apart. Face masks and gloves permitted.

Are the new exams more difficult?

- Goals
 - Protect the public
 - Maintain statistical features, including difficulty, of standard NCLEX
- Reconfigurations were based on extensive simulation and hybrid simulation of actual examination results for similar time period, April – June 2019
- What have the actual data shown so far?
- The exams are NOT more difficult!

Questions and follow-up

- Now
 - Live Q/A via chat feature
- After the webinar
 - Will review remaining chat questions for additions to our FAQs
 - More questions? Email: nclexwebinars@ncsbn.org
 - A recording of this presentation will be available shortly in the Webinars section of our website at <https://www.ncsbn.org/webinars.htm>
- THANK YOU!